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1. The Russians have organized an airbase at Balchik for torpedo bombers. The strength is one regiment of 32 airplanes of the TU-2 type (two-engine bombers each carrying two torpedoes or a total bomb load of two thousand kilos plus a three-man crew). The base has been organized with the object of bombing any American naval vessel that might come into the Black Sea with the purpose of forcing a landing. The pilots are chosen on the grounds of political reliability and are sworn to secrecy. They are cut off from their families and live a dull life. As encouragement they are given higher pay and all the liquor they want. Nevertheless, morale and discipline is low. The pilots are not really eager to fight.
2. The reason why the Soviet does not now have adequate airbases in Bulgaria is explained thus: the original agreement was that the USSR would furnish machines and materials to make the runways and Bulgaria would furnish the labor. The Soviet, however, has not furnished machines and materials — because she does not have them — and the labor corps is unable to produce hard surface runways.
3. [redacted] January 1948, 33 Bulgarian officers, most of them partisans and politically oriented toward Communism, left by plane via Bucharest for Moscow. They are to take different courses in the Military Academy (Frunze) in Moscow. Among these officers was Lt. Col. Hristo Dinkov Danov, chief of the Bulgarian Air Force Intelligence Service. There will be officer-students from all the Slav countries.
4. Recently General Ivan Kinov, Chief of Staff of the Bulgarian Army, presented to high Bulgarian officers 22 high-ranking Russian officers who will act as advisers to the Bulgarian Ministry of War. Among this group were two Russian generals. There are now four Russian generals in Bulgaria, the senior being a lieutenant general who recently arrived in Sofia.
5. The Russian Colonel Stepanovic is Military Adviser to the Staff of the Bulgarian Air Force. Stepanovic is not a general staff officer but comes from the Russian fighter squadrons.
6. There is a rumor (probably true) that the Bulgarian Engineer Corps

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

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(Pioneers) is now armed with Russian katushki.

7. There is a rumor in military circles that 24 crews of Bulgarian sailors have been sent to Odessa to receive training in submarine warfare. It is believed more probable that from three to five crews actually went to the USSR for such training.

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